

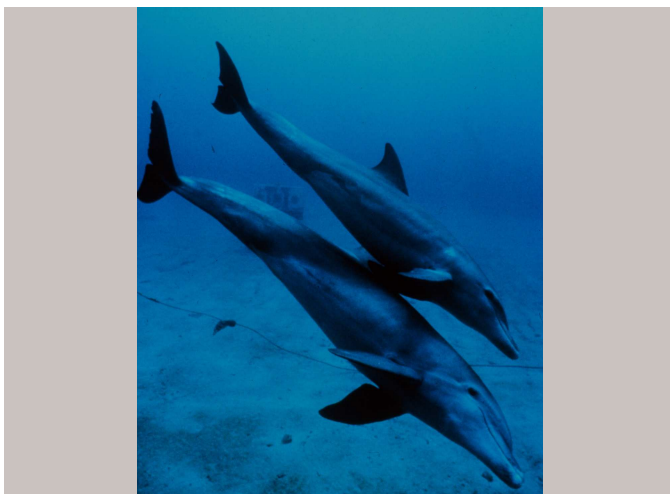
Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan

Goal:

To reduce injuries
and deaths of
coastal bottlenose
dolphins due to
accidental entanglement
in fishing gear

Affected Fisheries:

- North Carolina Inshore Gillnet
- Southeast Atlantic Gillnet
- Southeastern U.S. Atlantic Shark Gillnet
- U.S. Mid-Atlantic Coastal Gillnet
- Atlantic Blue Crab Trap/Pot
- Mid-Atlantic Haul/Beach Seine
- North Carolina Long Haul Seine
- North Carolina Roe Mullet Stop Net
- Virginia Pound Net



Credit: NOAA OAR/Undersea Research Program

What's the status of the Plan?

In May 2002, the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team submitted a report to NOAA Fisheries with consensus recommendations to reduce the take of bottlenose dolphins incidental to commercial fisheries. Over the course of 2002, NOAA Fisheries conducted additional field studies to gather data on abundance estimates and, per the recommendation of the TRT, the agency chose to await the results of those studies before finalizing the take reduction plan. The Team met in April 2003 to consider the new abundance estimates and resulting PBRs as they refined their management recommendations.

The Team's consensus recommendations for a Take Reduction Plan for the western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) include regulatory recommendations, based on management units, that apply to specific fisheries and generally seek to reduce soak times, the amount of gear in the water at any given time, or to modify practices in order to limit interactions with and take of bottlenose dolphins.

The Team also adopted non-regulatory recommendations for all management units including education and outreach, as well as improved research, monitoring, stranding data, and observer coverage. Due to differences in gear characteristics from the net fisheries, the Team developed a separate set of recommendations for the blue crab pot/trap fishery. NOAA Fisheries developed a draft plan (69 FR 65127) based on the Team's recommendations and public comments. A final plan and responses to comments are being developed.

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Questions?

Please contact Stacey Carlson at 727-824-5312 to learn more about upcoming meetings, the process, and Team members who are representing your interests.

For gear-related questions, ideas on gear modification, or other take reduction options, please contact Parks Lewis at 252-342-7889.



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service



Immediate Goal:

To reduce, within 6 months of plan implementation, the mortality or serious injury of marine mammals taken in the course of commercial fishing operations to levels less than the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) Level.

PBR is the calculated number of human-caused deaths per year each marine mammal stock can withstand and still reach its optimum sustainable population number.

Long-term Goal:

To reduce, within 5 years of plan implementation, incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals incidentally taken in the course of commercial fishing operations to insignificant levels approaching a zero rate, taking into account the economics of the fisheries, the adaptability of existing fishing technology, and existing state or regional fishery management plans.

Web Site: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/bdtrp.htm>